

Reference Number - X2C005
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS
(DIRECT PURCHASE ORDERS TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS)
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory

The Human Studies Division (HSD), National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina is seeking an individual to provide services under contractual agreement in support of the biomarkers program.

The successful candidate should be either working toward (at the graduate level) or have recently attained (within the last 12 months) a graduate degree in environmental sciences with emphasis on statistical analysis and epidemiological methodology. Applicants with compatible skill sets, qualifications and experience are encouraged to apply. The student needs to have completed at least 20 hrs of course work in college level biology and/or chemistry.

The National Health and Environmental Research Laboratory (NHEERL) is responsible for conducting studies in adults to characterize relationships between environmental exposure and internal measures of dose, biomarkers of exposure and effects. A more complete knowledge is needed regarding the continuum of events that occur after exposure to a toxicant. The agency is particularly interested in biomarkers that would reflect cumulative exposures/effects from different media (air and water).

The student contractor or recent graduate contractor will be involved in providing information related to blood levels of a specific marker of oxidation measured in blood. Reactive oxygen species has been shown to be a causative mediator and specific markers of free radical induced damage. 8-Isoprostane measurements in biological fluids have been shown to be associated with atherosclerosis, allergic asthma, and rheumatoid arthritis and elevated in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis. This measurement will be assessed in human blood plasma in relation to individuals, ie blood pressure, weight, age, gender, and other health indices, ie diabetes, asthma. All samples will be analyzed according to standard immunological procedures and/or as modified by the mentor.

All samples shall be prepared according to the technical requirements. The contractor will prepare all samples as requested, but the number of samples for testing and subsequent data analysis will not exceed 12 samples per week. The contractor will have at least 8 months to complete the analyses. The student will maintain careful and accurate records in a Laboratory Notebook. This notebook, and all other data produced under this order will be the property of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The contractor will need to know basic safety requirements in the laboratory and will be given

additional safety requirements at their laboratory. The contractor must demonstrate proficiency with basic lab techniques/instrumentation including use of centrifuges, pipettes, plate readers, filtration columns. The contractor needs to demonstrate an ability to make up solutions and standards solutions at known concentrations. Demonstration of previous lab work with human biological fluids or samples is highly desirable. Basic understanding of immunological principles/laboratory procedures is desirable.

This work is to begin early to mid-January, 2004 and end late August/early September, 2004. The duty location is Chapel Hill, NC. Work will be performed in a laboratory. Contractors will be required to wear safety apparel and to closely observe safety requirements. Students/graduate will be working with human blood samples and will have to practice universal safety precautions.

The hourly rate is commensurate with the level of education and experience, as follows: \$20.07 per hour. Contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and do not receive overtime premium for any hours worked beyond the 40-hour week. Contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local, and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; Contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Offerors must be students in good standing who are currently enrolled in a degree program or at a recognized educational institution. Recent graduates are eligible as long as graduation occurred no more than one year ago. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Contractors who perform under contract for EPA are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Government will make contract awards based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement. Please see the attached evaluation criteria.

Interested candidates may apply to this opportunity by providing a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications including:

- student's full legal name
- mailing address
- telephone number
- email address (if any)
- date of birth
- Social Security Number

- place of birth
- citizenship and, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status
- education, including description of relevant classes to the statement of work and a certified copy of the most recent transcript with overall Grade Point Average
- work or volunteer experience related to the position
- scientific publications with a description of student's/recent graduate's role

Attach a copy of the most recent transcript, listing courses taken and the overall GPA.

Interested candidates should submit a resume or statement of qualifications to:

Diane Pierce
58A, HS Facility, Room 122
USEPA Mailroom
Research Triangle Park NC, 27711

E-mail - pierce.diane@epa.gov
Fax - (919) 966-0646

Prior to applying for this position, all candidates should visit the EPA procurement home page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ to learn the full details of the position for which you are applying. Under the section entitled "X2C005 Student Services/Chapel Hill ", read all of the attached documents. You should visit the website periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any amendments (changes to the requirement of the posted position) have been issued. If you have any questions on the information contained on this website, contact Matt Ake at ake.matt@epa.gov.

Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to **Dr. Jane Gallagher**, the EPA mentor for this position, at gallagher.jane@epa.gov.

Applications will be accepted from December 11, 2003 through 5 p.m. EST, December 26, 2003.